

Nîmes.

Dec. 1st 1865

My dear uncle Joe to be posted on 2^d (Lat.)

Yours of 23^d Nov. arrived here on Sunday last and is the latest news I have of your movements. All here going on pleasantly, you will have already heard of what Mr Squire calls our "family party" of seven; this however seems likely to be soon broken up by the departure of the Squires (Mr & Mrs) and a young lady, a cousin, who is travelling with them, for Mentone, Sir Vere de Vere and Lady de Vere who are soon going to Cannes, where I also purpose being at or before Christmas, say between the 15th and 20th. Should it not prove agreeable or profitable it is easy and inexpensive to move either further east or to return here. Travelling on this coast is simple and reasonable, and as far as I can ascertain the expenses of living are much the same everywhere. The French do not stay much in the hotels, they generally go into lodgings and thus one seldom meets them. Little or no increase of visitors here - none in this hotel; the natives are getting very triste and are continually "touting" in anything for

lodgers. Poor people it is no joke for them
having a bad season. I have found a wal-
-king companion in Sir Vere de Vere but
though pleasant and gentlemanly he is too
good a Tory to have enlarged ideas on sub-
-jects in general. He is from C^o. Limerick
somewhere near Killaloe, and with his wife
was persecuted at Rome some 10 or 12
years ago. They seem to have lived but little
in Ireland and much abroad. The Squires
are from some place on S. W. Ry 16 miles
from London (near Clermont (Caresmont?))
and seem to have travelled in every place
and country of Europe and the east that
our can think of. I certainly never met
any lady who had travelled as much as M^{rs}
S., Mr S. (I guess (from his manners and
appearance) has been in India. I have
no news of any kind from Fogarty and C^o.
I was glad to hear about Cheyne and agree
with his ideas regarding engineers and con-
-tractors on some (not all) points. Profes-
-sionally speaking I do not think a contrac-
-tors engineer holds a good position and
his comfort depends very much on the resident

engineer in charge - if he should be hard
to get on with and they don't pull together
the contractors engineer must have a
dogg life of it.

Twice writing the above I have had a letter from
young Fogarty. Bridgnorth Line deposited and
so far finished. He tells me that the
London and Northwestern and the South
Eastern Ry. have joined hands to make the
line from Euston (underground) to Charing
Cross. This is all his general news.

I have also found out that Mr Squires is
not Indian. Also a letter to day from
Mamma. Hope-Scott (Abbotsford)
and family arrived here to day. They
have a house of their own. I have been
looking at a 1864 Murray; he has cut out
of Corsica and increased his notices ^{of} these
parts besides devoting many pages to Nice
and Mentone. The latter place, or rather its
eastern bay, seems to be allowed to be the
warmest and finest climate on this coast,
by far the next most even climate; Nice,
all say, is liable to rapid changes and is
said to be dusty, glaring and city-like,
~~and is~~ frequented chiefly on account of its

resources; these opinions, expressed by people (not invalids) familiar with this coast may interest you. All say that the food and cuisine here in Hotel d'Orient are the best on the coast. No news from Cannes. There are only seven people in the Hotel des Iles d'Or, the largest, but not best hotel here. Is it not strange! Mosquitos here are still troublesome, flies and hawk moths still abundant. The last few days the weather been rather wet, broken and relaxing, warm even at night.

Have you had much house hunting at Bath and what do you think of the general run of houses there? Probably few like Cornhill Lodge? Lady de Vere tells me that this place is exquisitely lovely in early spring from the many flowers and rich vegetation, I can easily fancy it, seeing what it is in autumn. Jonathan Richardson of Lisburn, whom uncle Charles accompanied out here two years ago is I hear this winter at Cannes and much likes it. Let me hear any news you have of Arthur's intended movements. Love to all at Cornhill Down & Bath
Yours affect. nephew Francis E. Prendergast.